"There is a range of mountains which reaches to within three miles of the sea, more or less, and begins to rise in the neighbourhood of Boiga de Todolos Sanctus, (65) which was built by the Portuguese who inhabit there. [130] This range of mountains runs beside the sea for about 204 miles, in latitude twenty-nine degrees south of the equinoctial line, and is in places eight miles from the sea-ports. The land on both sides is similar. Many beautiful rivers flow from these mountains, and there is an abundance of wild life in the heights."

"65. Now Bahia, founded in 1549 by Thomé de Souza."

9: Cardim--449-450 (1583-1601) 1906 Tupinamba
116, 133

"The Countrie is somewhat melancholicke, overflowne with many waters, as wel of maine Rivers, as from the Skie; in it is great store of raine chiefly in Winter, it is ful of great Woods that are greene all the yeere. It is a Hilly Countrie, especially toward the Sea Coast, and from Pernambuco unto the Captaineship of the Holy Ghost, is verie scarce of stone; but from thence to [450] Saint Vincent are verie rough and high Mountaines, of great Quarries of Rockie stone, the food and waters are generally healthfull, light, and of easie digestion. There are few Commodities for apparell, because the Countrie yeeldeth nothing but Cotton-wooll, and of the rest the Countrie is plentifull: espceially of Cattell and Sugars."

12: Magalhães de Gandavo--27-29 (1576) 1922 Tupinamba 1-3
116, 133

There is an infinite number of springs in the country, the waters of which form many great rivers which flow into the Ocean, either on the north or the east coast. Some of them rise in the midst of the sertão (19) and wind through long and tortuous channels in search of the Ocean, where their currents drive away the salt water with violence and enter the Ocean with such impetus that it is difficult and dangerous to navigate those waters. The principal and most famous of the rivers of those regions is the River of the Amazons (20) which flows northward into the ocean one [28] half-degree south of the Equator, and whose mouth is about thirty leagues across. In the mouth of this river are many islands which divide it into many channels; it rises in a lake about one hundred leagues from the South Sea [Pacific] at the foot of the mountain ranges of Quito, in the province of Peru, whence several Castillian expeditions have embarked, which navigated downstream and succeeded in entering the Ocean half a degree from the Equator, a distance of six hundred leagues in a straight line, but actually more, counting the turns the river itself makes.

"19. Sertão means the wooded back-lying interior of a region. In Brazil, in these days, it means the central portion of the country within the rim of mountains which parallel the coast.

20. This is the true significance of the name, first applied by Orellana because he had fought with women in the upper part of the river when he made his voyage of discovery in 1541."

Another very large river, fifty leagues to the east of this one, also empties north, and is called the Maranhão River. (21) There are many islands in it: one of them in the middle of the bar is inhabited by aborigines, and alongside any kind of boat may anchor. The mouth of this river is seven leagues across, and so much salt water enters it that for fifty leagues up into the sertão it is no more nor less than an arm of the sea, whither one can navigate among the islands without any hindrance. Here there empty two rivers which rise in the sertão; up one of them some Portuguese sailed on a voyage of discovery in the year '35; (22) they proceeded up it two hundred and fifty leagues, until they could

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"21. Maranhão is an old name for the Amazon. In Magalhães' description, he apparently refers to the southern mouth of the Amazon, which flows south of the island of Marajó into the sea.

22. I have not been able to identify the voyage. It may have been a ship from the expedition sent out by João de Barros and Ayres da Cunha. Or Duarte Coelho may have sent out some one to explore. Or, again, it may have been an expedition under Antonio Cardoso de Barros and Ayres da Cunha. Or Duarte again, it may have been an expedition under Antonio Cardoso de Barros, one of the original captains."

go no farther because of the narrowness of the river and the shallowness [29] of the water which would no longer float the boats. Of the other river no exploration was made, so that today the source of neither is known.

Another very noteworthy river flows eastward into the same Ocean and is called São Francisco: its mouth is located in ten and a third degrees and may be half a league wide. This river flows into the sea so proudly and with such fury that the tide never reaches its mouth, but only represses the water a little; three leagues out to sea the water is fresh. It flows toward its mouth from the south to the north; within it is very deep and clear, and it can be navigated for sixty leagues, as has already been done. From there on one can not go, on account of a very great waterfall at that point, over which the sheet of water rushes from a great height. And above this fall the river itself runs underground and comes up again a league away; when there are floods, the river overflows and washes away the earth. This river rises in a very large lake which is in the middle of the country, where they say are many towns whose inhabitants (according to report) have great possessions of gold and precious stones. (23)"

"23. This lake and the inhabitants are described in the last chapter. It was while seeking permission to explore this inland country up the river São Francisco that Gabriel Soares de Sousa spent several years in Madrid and wrote his Tratado Descriptivo do Brazil."